

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method for offering purchase price protection for a product and/or service, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, by at least a first computer system associated with a first web site, information directly from a user, the information being entered by the user at the first web site via a user interface at the first website, wherein the information is associated with a configuration of a product and/or service that was purchased by the user from a second web site different from the first web site, wherein the configuration of the product and/or service includes a plurality of configurable components each associated with a different purchase price, wherein the information includes a total purchase price of the product and/or service, wherein the total purchase price comprises the purchase price of each configurable component of the configuration of the product and/or service, and wherein the second web site offers purchase price protection for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service, wherein the user also enters a type of purchase price protection offered by the second website, and wherein the user submits the information to the first web site by selecting a button on the user interface;

initiating, by the at least first computer system associated with the first web site, the purchase price protection offered by the second website as indicated by the user for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service in response to the user selecting the button on the user interface;

determining, by the at least first computer system associated with the first web site, a current total purchase price for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service at the second web site, wherein the determining includes accessing the second website by the at least first computer system associated with the first website and selecting each configurable component of the purchased configuration of the product and/or service to identify the current total purchase price of the purchased product and/or service configuration;

determining, by the at least first computer system associated with the first web site,

whether the user is entitled to a purchase price protection refund based on the current total purchase price at the second web site; and

the at least first computer system associated with the first web site sending directly to the user an indication indicating that the user is entitled to the purchase price protection refund.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface at the first web site includes a web page having a list of text fields and identifiers for the user to enter at least one of the following information associated with a configuration of a product and/or service that was purchased by the user from the second web site, the user thereby providing information directly to the first web:

- a name of the product and/or service;
- a description of the product or service;
- an identifier of the product and/or service;
- a name, address and telephone number of the second web site;
- a date the product and/or service was purchased by the user; and
- a total purchase price the user paid for the product and/or service.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second determining step comprises the steps of:

determining a time period of the purchase price protection offered by the second web site for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service, the current time, the total purchase price of the product and/or service configuration, and the current total purchase price of the product and/or service configuration at the second web site; and

if the current time is within the time period of the purchase price protection and if the total purchase price of the product and/or service configuration is greater than the current total purchase price at the second web site, then determining that the user is due a purchase price protection refund, and otherwise, determining that the user is not due a purchase price protection refund.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

The at least first computer system via the first web site providing directly to the user with information necessary for redeeming the refund that is due from the purchase price protection offered by the second web site, such that the user may redeem the refund directly from the second web site.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

The at least first computer system associated with the first web site sending directly to the user a refund corresponding to the refund due from the purchase price protection offered by the second web site; and

the first web site redeeming from the second web site, on behalf of the user, the refund the user is due from the purchase price protection offered by the second web site.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first web site and the second web site are separate e-commerce web sites.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product comprising computer instructions for operating on at least one web site for offering purchase price protection for a product and/or service, the ~~computer instructions including instructions for~~ computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising:

receiving, by a first web site, information directly from a user, the information being entered by the user at the first web site via a user interface at the first website, wherein the information is associated with a configuration of a product and/or service that was purchased by the user from a second web site different from the first web site, wherein the configuration of the product and/or service includes a plurality of configurable components each associated with a different purchase price, wherein the information includes [[the]] a total purchase price of the product and/or service, wherein the total purchase price comprises the purchase price of each configurable component of the configuration of the product and/or service, and wherein the

second web site offers purchase price protection for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service, wherein the user also enters a type of purchase price protection offered by the second website, the user also entering a notification type selection indicating how the user is to be notified of a refund from the purchase price protection, and wherein the user submits the information to the first web site by selecting a button on the user interface;

initiating, by the first web site, the purchase price protection offered by the second website as indicated by the user for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service in response to the user selecting the button on the user interface;

determining, by the first web site, a current total purchase price for the product and/or service at the second web site, wherein the determining includes accessing the second website by the first website and selecting each configurable component of the purchased configuration of the product and/or service to identify the current total purchase price of the purchased product and/or service configuration;

determining, by the first web site, whether the user is entitled to a purchase price protection refund based on the current total purchase price at the second web site; and

the first web site sending directly to the user an indication based on the notification type selection entered by the user indicating that the user is entitled to the purchase price protection refund.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the user interface at the first web site includes a web page having a list of text fields and identifiers for the user to enter at least one of the following information associated with a configuration of a product and/or service that was purchased by the user from the second web site, the user thereby providing information directly to the first web:

- a name of the product and/or service;
- a description of the product or service;
- an identifier of the product and/or service;
- a name, address and telephone number of the second web site;
- a date the product and/or service was purchased by the user; and
- a price the user paid for the product and/or service.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the instructions for the second determining step comprise instructions for:

determining a time period of the purchase price protection offered by the second web site for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service, the current time, the total purchase price of the product and/or service configuration, and the current total purchase price of the product and/or service configuration at the second web site; and

if the current time is within the time period of the purchase price protection and if the total purchase price of the product and/or service configuration is greater than the current total purchase price at the second web site, then determining that the user is due a purchase price protection refund, and otherwise, determining that the user is not due a purchase price protection refund.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, further comprising instructions for:

the first web site providing directly to the user with information necessary for redeeming the refund that is due from the purchase price protection offered by the second web site, such that the user may redeem the refund directly from the second web site.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, further comprising instructions for:

the first web site sending directly to the user a refund corresponding to the refund due from the purchase price protection offered by the second web site; and

the first web site redeeming from the second web site, on behalf of the user, the refund the user is due as a result of the purchase price protection offered by the second web site.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the first web site and the second web site are separate e-commerce web sites.

15. (**Currently Amended**) A system for offering purchase price protection for a product and/or service, comprising:

at least a first computer system associated with a first web site, wherein the at least first computer system receiv[[ing]]es information directly from a user, the information being associated with a configuration of a product and/or service that was purchased by the user from a second web site, associated with at least a second computer system, different from the first web site, wherein the configuration of the product and/or service includes a plurality of configurable components each associated with a different purchase price, wherein the information includes a total purchase price of the product and/or service, wherein the total purchase price comprises the purchase price of each configurable component of the configuration of the product and/or service, and wherein the second web site offers purchase price protection for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service, wherein the information also includes a type of purchase price protection offered by the second website and a notification type selected by the user indicating how the user is to be notified of a refund from the purchase price protection, and wherein the first web site comprises a user interface that is used by the user to enter the

information, the user interface including at least one button that is selected by the user for submitting the information to the first web site, wherein the ~~first web site~~ at least first computer system initiates the purchase price protection offered by the second website as indicated by the user for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service in response to the user selecting the button on the user interface;

a spider associated with the at least first computer system for determining a current total purchase price on the second web site for the product and/or service, wherein the determining includes accessing the second website by the first website and selecting each configurable component of the purchased configuration of the product and/or service to identify the current total purchase price of the purchased product and/or service configuration;

a processor at the at least first computer system executing instructions ~~[[for]]~~ that determin[[ing]]e whether the user is due a purchase price protection refund based on the current total purchase price on the second web site; and

a transmitter at the at least first computer system for sending directly to the user based on the notification type selection entered by the user an indication indicating that the purchase price protection refund is due, wherein the transmitter is further for sending a portion of the refund directly to the user and keeping a remaining portion of the refund as a fee associated with the user.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the information associated with a configuration of a product and/or service that was purchased by the user from the second web site includes at least one of:

- a name of the product and/or service;
- a description of the product or service;
- an identifier of the product and/or service;
- a name, address and telephone number of the second web site;
- a date the product and/or service was purchased by the user; and
- a price the user paid for the product and/or service.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the processor further comprises:

means for determining a time period of the purchase price protection offered by the second web site for the purchased configuration of the product and/or service, the current time, the total purchase price of the purchased configuration of the product and/or service, and the current total purchase price of the product and/or service configuration determined from the second web site; and

if the current time is within the time period of the purchase price protection and if the total purchase price of the product and/or service configuration is greater than the current total purchase price determined from the second web site, then determining that the user is due a purchase price protection refund, and otherwise, determining that the user is not due a purchase price protection refund.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the transmitter further provides directly to the user information necessary for redeeming the refund due from the purchase price protection offered by the second web site, such that the user may redeem the refund from the second web site.

20. (**Cancelled**)